

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A fuel injector comprising:

a valve member which is engageable with a valve seating to control fuel delivery from the injector;

a hydraulic amplifier arrangement coupled to the valve member via a piston member and a control chamber; ~~and~~

an actuator arrangement coupled to the piston member, wherein the hydraulic amplifier arrangement and the actuator arrangement are adapted to apply an initial retracting force to the piston member to move the valve member away from the valve seating and to apply a second retracting force to the piston member thereafter; and,

the valve member and the piston member being mechanically coupled by the hydraulic amplifier arrangement during application of the initial retracting force and decoupled from one another during application of the second retracting force.

27. (Original) A fuel injector, as set forth in claim 26, wherein the second retracting force is less than the initial retracting force.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a fuel injector for delivering fuel from the injector having a valve member which is engageable with a valve seating to control fuel delivery from the injector; a hydraulic amplifier arrangement coupled to the valve member via a piston member and a control chamber, and an actuator arrangement coupled to the piston member, the method comprising the steps of:

applying an initial retracting force to the piston member to move the valve member away from the valve seating; and,

applying a second retracting force to the piston member after initial movement of the valve member, the valve member and the piston member being mechanically coupled by the hydraulic amplifier arrangement during application of the initial retracting force and decoupled from one another during application of the second retracting force.